

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 01922

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCHUL, GE
SUBJECT: BATTLE OF PREPOSITIONS; PAUL STRAND VICTORY

REF: (A) STATE 64063, (B) BERLIN 1897

1. KULTURBUND'S DR. MERTINK PHONED PAO SHORTLY AFTER NOON MARCH 16 TO SAY THAT IN INTEREST ALL PARTIES, AND BECAUSE KULTURBUND ANXIOUS THAT PAUL STRAND EXHIBIT TAKE PLACE, AMBASSADOR BOLEN WOULD BE IDENTIFIED IN INVITATION/PROGRAM IN SHORT FORM, SPECIFICALLY, "AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" WITHOUT ADDITION OF "IN THE GDR".

2. MERTINK SAID INVITATIONS ALREADY PRINTED AND WERE BEING ADDRESSED, AND SAID SAMPLE COULD BE PICKED UP BY EMBASSY DRIVER. THIS WAS DONE WITHIN MINUTES AND INVITATION PROVED TO BE EXACTLY AS MERTINK SAID.

3. AMBASSADOR BOLEN RAISED THE PROBLEM WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BEIL AT LUNCH ON MONDAY, MARCH 13. BEIL SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT. WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN
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WHETHER BEIL FOLLOWED UP ON HIS PROMISE BUT BEIL'S CONCERN WITH IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE FOR US-GDR TRADE RELATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERATION IN THE GDR DECISION.

4. COMMENT. THE REVERSAL OF THE GDR POSITION REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE GDR ATTACHES TO

THE U.S. CULTURAL PROGRAM AND, IN A LARGER SENSE,
OF ITS DESIRE TO SEE US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS DEVELOP.
OTHER FACTORS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
MAY HAVE BEEN THE GDR DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT ITS
CULTURAL PROGRAM IN THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE HAMPERED
AND THE FEAR OF POTENTIAL RETALIATION IN REGARD TO
THE DRESDEN EXHIBIT. IN ANY CASE THE GDR HAS MADE
A DECISION TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE AND, CONSIDERING
THAT THE ISSUE TOUCHES ON A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL
IMPORTANCE TO IT, THE CONCESSION WAS NO SMALL ONE.
NOT ONLY HAS THIS CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE PAUL STRAND
EXHIBIT, IT HAS ALSO, WE HOPE, SET A PRECEDENT FOR
USE IN CONNECTION WITH FUTURE PROGRAMS.
BOLEN

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